

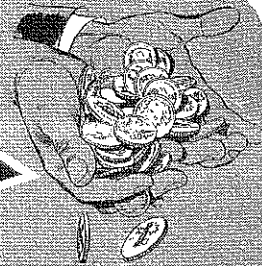


2014
CASH for college

CONTEST

ENTRY FORM

GRADES 6-12



YOU COULD WIN \$529 IN A COLLEGE 529 SAVINGS PLAN !

Complete the essay question below for a chance to win a College 529 Savings Plan.

Entries must be postmarked or emailed by March 10, 2014. One winner in each grade will receive \$529 in a College 529 Savings Plan!

Here's what you do:

- 1) Fill out your name and contact information on this page
- 2) Complete the essay below
- * 3) Mail this page and your essay to:

Learn More Indiana

Attn: Contests

101 W. Ohio St, Suite 550

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Or, scan your entry and email it to: contests@learnmore.org.

All entries must be postmarked by March 10, 2014. We pick winners based on the best entry for each grade level – so do your best!

NAME:	Gretchen Brown									
GRADE:	8th									
SCHOOL:	Washington Jr. High									
ADDR										Ind.
CITY:										INDIANA
ZIP:										
PHO										
EMA										Net

Describe how you have demonstrated leadership ability both in and out of school.

(This is a potential college application question. Do your best work to practice!)

Braille and print copy enclosed.

CashForCollegeIndiana.org



LearnMoreIndiana.org

Edited &
rewritten
copy

Gretchen Brown
529 Plan

I don't know if God is calling me to be a leader in the future, but I have been a leader in many different ways. I am not even sure if my leadership skills are strong, but I know that my leadership skills can kick in when I need them to. I just get the feeling that I have to take charge, because no one else is willing to do it.

One way I demonstrate leadership skills is through Junior Baita, which is a club at my school. I have been a chair person on many committees, and they have worked out successfully. For example, the club is doing a March for Babies Walk and Fundraiser. Since I was born premature, I decided to raise my hand for the person in charge. I was nearly the only person who wanted to be in charge, and it will be successful because I will make sure. I have also demonstrated leadership skills during classes at school as well. For Home Economics, I was elected group leader by my teacher and I am currently enjoying this experience so far.

It is not my inclination to have people tell me what to do, so I don't tell other people what to do. I often just ask them what they want to do and I do what tasks are left. People would consider me a dirty job doer, but I am fine with that.

In fact, I put on an amiable face and I greatly enjoy the task of which I have been asked to do or volunteered to do. Once others see me taking on and enjoying tasks, people start taking turns with jobs.

Another way I have demonstrated leadership skills in my school is by self advocating. I have had to talk to my teachers about different things such as technology and Orientation and Mobility. Teachers are leaders, but they need to learn to listen to the people of whom they are in authority over. Everyone should be willing to keep learning because education makes strong leaders. It is very hard for me to be a leader to my teachers, because I have a very difficult time making myself understood. My friend once told me that I have to be the leader of my own life, so I have to make sure that I am understood in different situations by being prepared with methodical reasons and solutions. I have had to have a meeting with my teachers to make myself understood and it didn't come very easily. However, with my parents and other role models for support, I was able to effectively get my point across and changes were made.

As for my leadership activities outside of school, I am afraid I can't mention as many as I can about doing activities at my school. I have written many letters to people in authority. Some of them have been implications on how to make something better for a certain group of people. For example, I wrote a letter to the President about how I believe packaged products in grocery stores should be labeled in Braille. I also wrote one to

the Secretary of the Treasury about tactical money. Of course, I never got a response back, and nothing has been changed, but you never know. If the right leader is in charge who knows what could happen. As I am currently only an eighth grader, I plan to get involved in my community and leadership opportunities more when I am in high school and throughout my high school years.

Being a leader comes easier to some than others. No matter the age of a person they need to be a leader because in the present, of which we are living, you never know what may come of this generation. Leaders are more crucial now than ever, yet why are they becoming obsolete? Some people are called to be leaders, while others have other gifts to share. As I grow, I look forward to many more leadership opportunities in the future. I look forward to being a leader of my generation and as a step in that direction my goal is to be Valedictorian of my class.